

Each month DMME personnel will be conducting monthly safety talks pertaining to Emergency Response and Preparedness. Topic-of-the-Month brochures and safety stickers will be handed out during these talks to help remind you of these critical safety points.



The Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy has developed several award winning mine safety videos. These videos were made possible thru Grants from the Mine Safety and Health Administration and can be found on our website at:
www.dmme.virginia.gov

Mine Safety Videos:

- ◆ The Right Choice
- ◆ Step Up To The Plate
- ◆ Lead The Way
- ◆ No Way Out
- ◆ The Miners' Bond



Additional Information

For more information on the Virginia Topic-of-the-Month Mine Emergency Campaign, please contact:

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UNDERGROUND

INJURIES



Virginia Department of
Mines, Minerals and Energy



Mine Emergency

July 2017
Topic-of-the-Month

COAL MINE SAFETY LAWS OF VIRGINIA

- Protective Clothing (45.1-161.175)
- Emergency Response Plans (45.1-161.202. A.)
- Control of Coal Dust (45.1-161.234)

PERSONAL SAFETY

Underground mining operations pose similar risk to worker safety and health. Fortunately, modern mining equipment, more automated mining techniques, and improved engineering have significantly reduced some of the safety risks. However, miners must remain cautious and take personal responsibility for their own safety.

People in every aspect of the mine operation have a role to play in creating a safe work place. Buying into personal safety is an individual choice. A successful safety program requires a commitment that is promoted from the top -down at the mine.



SAFETY KEYPOINTS

- ⇒ Miners shall wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as needed or as required by law .
- ⇒ Every person assigned to or performing duties at coal mines shall wear reflective clothing material adequate to be visible from all sides.
- ⇒ Miners must know and follow their approved mining plans (roof control, ventilation, emergency response, etc.). Being familiar with these procedures will eliminate unnecessary risks.
- ⇒ Preventing exposure to coal dust is the best way to protect your health. Use operator and worker position to limit exposure, maintain water sprays, machine dust collection systems, and respirator protection during mining operations.
- ⇒ The mine-wide tracking system is valuable technology especially in the event of an emergency. Make certain your tracking device is operating properly before entering the mine and always use the check-in and out system at the mine.
- ⇒ Mining equipment must be maintained in safe operating conditions for your protection as well as the protection of co-workers.
- ⇒ Avoid traveling between parked equipment and coal ribs. Make certain loose roof and loose or overhanging ribs are taken down or supported.

KEYPOINTS—continued

- ⇒ Equipment proximity protection systems could save your life. Always test proximity systems prior to equipment operations to verify the components are intact, and the system is functioning properly. Avoid potential pinch points and STAY OUT OF RED ZONES.
- ⇒ Check gas detection instruments making sure they are calibrated and in good condition. Keep detection instruments on while working underground, make frequent gas tests and maintain adequate ventilation.
- ⇒ Always stay alert and take time to identify any potential hazards associated with a job. Conduct thorough work place examinations and be attentive to changes in mining conditions.
- ⇒ Prior to working on electrical equipment, be sure it is de-energized, locked-out, and tagged. Make sure equipment is blocked against motion.



MINE EMERGENCY SAFETY CHECK

T	F	Newly employed miners must travel the entire length of the primary escapeway within 10 days of completion of training and assignment underground?
T	F	Hand held methane detectors must be calibrated at least once every three months?
T	F	Oxygen, methane, and carbon monoxide detection instruments must remain operational while underground?
T	F	Refuge alternative(s) can be placed in direct line of sight of the working face if located further than 500 feet from the face?
T	F	Gloves must be worn when handling energized cables?
T	F	Riding on top of self-propelled mobile equipment is allowed if there is adequate clearance?
T	F	Miners can board or leave man-trips provided they are not traveling too fast and it can be done safely?
T	F	Persons operating self-propelled haulage equipment shall sound a warning before starting equipment?
T	F	A guard can be repaired, while the equipment is in operation?